



Credits: DW

Court postpones again the debate on the seizure of assets and sets for March 3 the beginning of the presentation of final arguments

- The debate on the deferred contradictory arguments on the seizure of assets of some defendants involved in the “hidden debt” scandal had been scheduled for yesterday, Thursday, after being postponed on Monday. But Judge Efigénio Baptista again postponed the discussion to an unscheduled date since the defense lawyers were only notified of the documents that were missing in the application of the Public Prosecutor’s Office on Thursday, that is, the same day scheduled for the discussion of the injunction to seize assets.

● With the discussion of the seizure of assets postponed sine die, the judge scheduled for 3 March the start of the presentation of the closing arguments, the last arguments of the Public Prosecutor, the assistant in the case (OAM) and the defense lawyers before the reading of the sentence. The Prosecutor will be the first to present the findings and convictions based on the lengthy hearings of the defendants and declarants. Ana Sheila Marrengula had already warned the Court that the Public Prosecutor's Office will need at least 10 hours to present its closing arguments, due to the complexity of the case and the number of defendants involved (19).

Once again, the judge of the 6th Criminal Section of the Maputo City Judicial Court postponed the debate of the deferred contradictory of the provisional seizure of assets of the defendants involved in the "hidden debts" case. Initially, the debate on the injunction had been scheduled for last Monday, but it was postponed to Thursday, 24 February, because the defense lawyers had not yet been notified of some documents attesting to the ownership and exact location of the assets listed by the Public Prosecutor as property of the defendants.

By postponing the debate to Thursday, Judge Efigénio Baptista was giving the defense lawyers the necessary time to be notified in due time and to have the space to analyze the documents with their constituents as well as preparing the contradictory debate. However, the defense lawyers were only notified of the documents that were missing from the Public Prosecutor's application on Thursday - that is, the same day scheduled for the discussion of the precautionary measure that seeks the seizure of assets.

And because the conditions for an informed debate of the deferred contradictory were not met, Judge Efigénio Baptista and the Public Prosecutor's representative (Ana Sheila Marrengula) did not appear at the Penitentiary Establishment of Maximum Security (commonly known as B.O), the place where the hearing sessions of discussion and trial of the financial scandal of the "hidden debts" takes place. But the defendants and some defense lawyers were present at the B.O, as they were not informed of the postponement of the contradictory debate deferred to a date yet to be set.

The civil action for the seizure of assets initiated by the Public Prosecutor's Office aims to prevent that, during the time that elapses until the final and unappealable decision in the case now under trial, the defendants may dissipate, hide and conceal the unseized assets that they hold and, consequently, the loss of the patrimonial guarantee of payment of compensation in case of conviction.

The trial resumes next Thursday, March 3, when the presentation of final arguments begins, with the Public Prosecutor's Office kicking off. Two weeks ago, prosecutor Ana Sheila Marrengula in-



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formed the Court that the Public Prosecutor's Office will need a minimum of 10 hours to present its closing arguments, due to the complexity of the case and the high number of defendants in-

involved (19). Taking into account that the sessions start after 10am, it can be said that the first day of the presentation of the final allegations will be dedicated to the Public Prosecution.

The assets targeted by the request for provisional seizure made by the Public Prosecutor,

The resumption of the trial with the presentation of closing arguments leads one to believe that the debate on the contradictory deferred seizure of assets requested by the Public Prosecutor's Office will take place during the last days of the discussion and trial hearing on the "hidden debts". From the list of assets listed by the Public Prosecutor's Office, we highlight the properties registered in the name of the defendant António Carlos do Rosário (former National Director of Economic Intelligence of SISE) and through companies created in his interest supposedly to launder the money from the "hidden debts". These companies are Indico Property, Txopela Investments and Mabassa Hotel.

The Public Prosecutor's Office says António Carlos do Rosário is the owner of 30 Type 1 flats, which are between the 11th and 18th floor of the Xenon Urban Apartments building, located on Julius Nyerere Avenue in Maputo City. In the same building, he owns a shop (on the ground floor), an auditorium, an office, a meeting room and a Type 2 flat. He also owns, in the same building, a penthouse - a Type 3 flat, on the 18th floor, with a terrace and swimming pool.

Still in the Mozambican capital, the former National Director of Economic Intelligence holds five (5) flats in Condomínio Zimpeto, located in Zimpeto area, next to Joaquim Chissano University, former Higher Institute of International Relations (where the defendant graduated in International Relations and Diplomacy); a flat on Ahmed Sekou Touré Avenue; a warehouse (in the ZTC warehouses) in Zimpeto area, on National Road No. 1.

In Zambézia province, António Carlos do Rosário owns four properties, all located in Quelimane city; and a plot of 5,436 square meters, located in Pebane district. In Maputo province, the defendant owns 16 plots of land located in Condomínio Natureza Viva, in Belo Horizonte district, in Boane municipality. He also owns a plot in the Costa do Sol area (behind the Taverna restaurant), Maputo City.

Speaking of plots of land, the Public Prosecutor's Office listed 15 plots located in the Romão area, Maputo City, belonging to the defendant Manuel Renato Matusse, political advisor of the President of the Republic Armando Guebuza at the time of the facts. The defendant's residence located in Muzingane, Limpopo district, Gaza province, is also included in the restraining order.

The goods of the defendant Maria Inês Dove, former executive secretary of Armando Guebuza, are also target of the Public Prose-



According to the Public Ministry, António Carlos do Rosário has about 40 properties in this building.

cutor's seizure order. They are a property located in Triunfo area, Maputo City; a hall called "Quinta Happy", located in Matola Rio, Boane district, Maputo province; and a plot located on Avenida Marginal, in Polana Caniço district, in Maputo city.

The "Quinta Happy" events hall is registered as the property of the company Quinta Happy Lda, owned by the defendant Maria Inês Dove and Roberto André Dove; while the plot in Polana Caniço is referred to in the records as the property that Maria Inês Dove intended to sell to Jean Boustani, manager of the Privinvest group and responsible for paying bribes to staff involved in the "hidden debts".

The defendant Cipriano Sisínio Mutota, a senior SISE officer, also saw his property being enlisted in the Public Prosecutor's request for provisional seizure. These are two properties located in 25 de Junho district "A" and "B", and a property located in Mapulango, Marracuene district. The application that will be submitted to the contradictory on Thursday includes assets of other defendants, such as a property located on the 4th floor of Xiluva Condominium, Avenida Julius Nyerere, Maputo City, owned by Armando Ndambi Guebuza. The Public Prosecutor's Office also wants to seize a share corresponding to 5% of share capital held by the defendant Armando Ndambi Guebuza in Focus 21, business group of the Gue-

buza family.

In relation to defendants Gregório Leão and Ângela Leão, the Public Prosecutor's Office says the couple hold assets in their personal names, as well as in the name of the company Anlaba Investments, in which the former SISE General Director is listed as a shareholder. "It should be noted that other assets belonging to them have not yet been formally registered in their names, there being some plots of land in the name of Ambrósio Orrubale, brother of the defendant Gregório Leão José..."

Other assets of the Leão couple subject to provisional seizure are two properties located in Karibu building, in Marginal Avenue, registered in the name of Anlaba Investments; a property located in Rua José Craveirinha; a villa located in Rua das Maçanicas; and a villa in Triunfo area, all in Maputo City. The Public Prosecutor's Office also listed a plot of land located in Condomínio Natureza Viva, in Belo Horizonte area, Boane municipality, registered in the name of Anlaba Investments.


The Public Prosecutor wants to arrest two properties of the defendants Teófilo Nhanguemele and Bruno Langa, both located in Djuba district, Boane district; a property of the defendant Zulficar Ali Ahmed located in Avenida Mao Tsé Tung, Maputo City; and a house located in the Magoanine area "A", of the defendant Fabião Salvador Mabunda.



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